

The Sun

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1906.

Published at the Sun Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscription at \$10.00 per Annum in Advance.

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Notwithstanding the absence, however, of any explicit reference to Ottoman affairs, it will be patent at Constantinople, as we have formerly pointed out, that by an Anglo-Russian entente the sole effective barrier against the expulsion of the Turks from Europe has been levelled. No coalition of European Powers on behalf of the Sultan ABDEL HAMID could prevent such expulsion if the rehabilitated Russian army and the unequalled British fleet should unite to bring it about. Moreover, Germany would shrink from assuming the odious role of defender of the Infidel, nor would she have any interest in doing so were she able to secure the desired concession with regard to the Anatolian-Mesopotamian railway. We have no doubt that such a concession would be made, for in a partition of the Ottoman possessions Russia would be satisfied with Turkish Armenia; Austria with Salonica and the adjoining district, Italy with Tripoli and Albania, France with Syria, and Great Britain with Egypt and Yemen. To the Turks would doubtless be left for a time the Asiatic core of their empire, to wit, that large part of Anatolia which stretches from the Egean to Konia and from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.

The formation of a hearty and stable friendship between Great Britain and Russia means for the former country an assurance of prolonged peace and prosperity and for the latter the financial aid indispensable to her regeneration.

Men of the Duma.

A most encouraging picture of the representatives of the Russian people in the Duma is drawn by THE SUN'S St. Petersburg correspondent in the letter printed to-day. Since this letter was written the Duma has given evidence of its temper that confirms in many details the favorable impression made by its members in the days immediately preceding its formal opening.

To understand the political events in which this remarkable popular assembly plays so momentous a part the personal characteristics of its members must be studied. A clear and illuminating insight into their mental habits and attitude is given by this communication from the scene of their labors.

Great Britain and Russia.

According to telegrams from London and St. Petersburg, the negotiations which have been going on for some time have resulted in an agreement between Great Britain and Russia with respect to their future relations. For the first time since their cooperation in the wars against NAPOLEON a cordial understanding between the two countries has been reached.

So far as the terms of the entente, or informal agreement, have been published they refer exclusively to the delimitation of spheres of influence in Asia, Russia covenants to observe faithfully the stipulations of the treaty concluded at Portsmouth with England's Japanese ally, a covenant which implies the definite renunciation of all schemes of expansion at the expense of China. Both parties will concur in recognizing the neutrality of Tibet, considered as a dependency of the Chinese Empire.

The independence of Afghanistan and the integrity of its present territorial limits will also be respected by both Russia and Great Britain. With regard to Persia a compromise has been effected. Ostensibly the Shah's sovereignty is not to be disputed, but the Czar is to exercise ascendancy in the northern half of the kingdom, while a like preponderance of influence is conceded to England in the provinces bordering on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. This practically means that Russian railways will monopolize the traffic of northern Persia, while a similar commercial exploitation of southern Persia is reserved for England.

In a word, that has happened which it was predicted would result from the moment that Great Britain entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with Japan, and at the same time into an entente cordiale with France. Therefore it was only a question of a short time when Russia would recognize, in view of the new international situation, her inability to invade India successfully and when she would be persuaded by her French allies that her political and pecuniary interests would alike be promoted by contracting friendly relations with Great Britain. Half of Persia is better than none, and the money which Paris bankers are beginning to tire of lending would easily be procurable in London if British public opinion should become as favorable to Russia as it already is to France. The negotiations presently undertaken to that end were facilitated by the transfer of the British Foreign Office to Sir EDWARD GREY, because for the last thirty years the Liberals have not shared the Tory mistrust and dislike of Russia.

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THE EVE OF THE DUMA.

St. Petersburg, May 22. Only three days remain.

Only three days remain and automatic Russia will have created for its parliament the most important business of its life. It is not often that one chapter in a country's history is divided from the next by such a straight, clear cut line. The division of time into historical periods is generally more or less vague, more or less arbitrary. This is a landmark that nothing can obliterate or obscure. From the underground realm of darkness, where the forces of the spring, which is to expand into the bright, free, and free nation's renovated life, are ready to leap into the light of day. Until it does this, it is not yet a nation, it is only a people.

As a result of Mr. McCall's spirited protest the bill was tabled and killed. We suggest that Mr. McCall should have drawn a line to make the punishment fit the crime. It will not endeavor to legislate virtue into Congress or muzzle the President and Cabinet. There should be a statute to prevent a recurrence of the cotton crop scandal, but a criminal law tabernacle with what Mr. McCall terms "boastful penalties" would never be enforced. Such makeshifts are creditable only to the seat of comical virtue in the bosom of statesmen, not to their intellectual parts. Doubtless the Federal statutes are bulky because there is so much dead law in them.

Marines for the Isthmus.

Within a few days the American marines who police the Panama Canal strip are to be reinforced by several hundred men who will be landed at Colon from the cruiser Columbia and at Panama from the cruiser Marblehead, in anticipation of an attempt to overthrow the Government of President AMADOR.

Early in the month the Administration at Washington gave out a correspondence between Governor MAGOON of the Canal Strip and Secretary TAFT, the purpose of which was to define the duty of the United States to preserve order in the Republic of Panama in the event of an insurrection. It was intimated that Governor MAGOON had been sounded on the subject by a faction which is hostile to President AMADOR. In his reply to Governor MAGOON the Secretary of War included an opinion by Secretary ROOT.

The despatch of marines is the sequel to the interpellation and the reply. It may be surmised that the correspondence was published as much for the information of our own people as for the good of the conspirators on the Isthmus. Treaties and constitutions soon fade from the memory, and it is well to refresh it. There will be no revolution on the Isthmus, because the American Government is building a canal there and has the stipulated right to keep the peace in Colon and Panama.

A thousand or so of marines may seem to be a large force to hold insurgent Panamanians in check, but it is better to be safe than to be sorry. The Panama Canal estimates submitted to Congress on Monday contemplate an outlay of \$26,348,281 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907. It is for the good of everybody that the elections in the Republic shall not be disturbed by volley firing and pronouncements.

Some of the oldest officers of the navy must be shocked at the present state of affairs. It would be interesting to know what some of them thought of yesterday's entertainment at the Bolshoi Theatre, in which officers and men were concerned together. Officers held executive positions in the organization which gave the entertainment, and this was well enough, for it kept the command where it ought to be. But there were songs in which the words were written by men living on the berth deck and the music by dwellers in the wardroom. What a shock to the habits of the old school mind! But is Jacky any the worse for finding out that his officer actually takes him for a man and a brother? Hardly, especially when Jacky learns that the officer really believes it and practices his belief in time of danger, as he did when he went into the turret to pull Jacky out after the explosion. Jacky is ready to do the same for his officer. It is a time of mutual respect and good will. The service does not seem to be any the worse for it. On the contrary it is likely to become much better, for men who respect themselves, and who are willing to go where they can preserve that self-respect, and thus the navy will get a better, sturdier and more intelligent class of men in the long run.

Senator HALE'S resolution directing the Committee on Privileges and Elections to determine the legal effect of "the late decision of the Supreme Court in the case of JOSEPH R. BURTON" seems to reflect an opinion, which Mr. HALE probably shares with Senators whom he has consulted, that the Senate has no further excuse for obstructing the appointing power of the Governor of Kansas.

An Assembly district reapportionment that reduces the political power of MIKE DADDY cannot be described as entirely bad.

The Speaker's eye is sometimes a revolting light, flashing on Republicans and Democrats alike. And sometimes it is a lamp of enlightenment, illuminating the Democrats alone and leaving the Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS in utter darkness.

Moorish fishermen boarding and looting a steamship flying the American flag; Moorish brigands capturing a British felucca; the good old days of the Barbary pirates are not yet over and "The Corsair" is still in fashion.

Yet another argument for those who would keep Greek in the curriculum. Post odds were 25 to 1 on To Kalon, and there were not enough Grecians in the ring to see the "hunch" in the one that looks good. And Tokalon's number was 131.

"All Quiet Along the Potomac."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I have before me a copy of the verses "All Quiet Along the Potomac" which were written by Lamar Fontaine, a Mississippian and a Confederate soldier, the music by J. H. Hewitt, published by Julian A. Selby, Columbia, S. C., "collected according to act of Congress by Julian A. Selby, in the clerk's office of the Confederate court of the District of South Carolina."

There is only one difference in the verses quoted and these before me. Just one more verse: "The moon seems to shine as brightly as then—That night when the love yet unspoken—Lapsed up hillsides when low murmured vows—Were pledged to be ever unbroken."

On the first page I find this: "Dedicated to the unknown dead of the present revolution." (MRS.) LOREN DICKINSON. RICHMOND, VA., May 19.

Brow of Marble, Heart of Fire.

From the Atlanta Georgian.

That Vice-President Fairbank is apparently unemotional has become something of a proverb, but after all this may be but

"The northwest passage
Unto the glowing India of his soul."

accomplished, no one will be as much as much to us. He used an expression equivalent to the English "being out to Coventry."

It is of course, of the greatest interest to watch the attitude of the population generally toward the great coming change, and we all take every opportunity to talk with any representative of the laboring class, whom the needs of daily life bring us in contact. The class division especially is interesting. The distances are long, and if you address the men in the proper form—rather apologetic on patronizing, just natural—they willingly respond and gladly toggle the time with talk. A very representative class they are, being almost to a man small peasant landowners from various parts of the country. These families take care of the land which they own in the cities what is needed to bring the two classes together at home. They are not, as a rule, overeducated as to immediate needs; but one thing they appreciate above all—that they will be at last heard. "Until now," they say, "it was always 'Your tongue.' Nobody asks you. No business of yours! Not now, at least, we can speak."

The next great source of excitement is the election of the Duma. No man, not even AMADOR himself, has been more hated, more abused for the last few months. As chief of the Cabinet he has been made to bear the odium of all the inhuman cruelties, the odious repression, which, in reality, he has steadily and strenuously opposed. Over and over again he has declared that he could not go on working with AMADOR—to no purpose.

He opposed and remonstrated until—and this is fact—AMADOR had the telephone wire cut from his study and the Premier's and refused to receive his messengers. And still Witte felt it his duty to stay. Some ten days ago he telegraphed a polite remonstrance to the Governor of Sebastopol, who had expelled from his city a lawfully elected member of the Duma, ending: "It is my opinion that it might be well to suspend the Governor. The answer was curt to impertinence. It is my opinion that S. cannot be allowed to enter."

It is thought that this outrageous sub had something to do with hastening his resolve. Intensely hated by the court clique, distrusted in the highest quarter, disobeyed and disregarded by the local strata, who acted according to secret instructions of all political parties, though on different grounds, only time and history will tell all that is hidden now and show what he had to endure and against what odds he stood his ground.

He may have made mistakes; he may. In many instances, have played a rather double faced game; but the fact remains that to him, personally, we owe the great triumph whereby the Duma is convoked and will assemble and open three days from now, in spite of the most desperate machinations to the contrary. Should the country not have something besides curses and obloquy for such a man? Z. R.

EARLY REPUBLICANS.

Henry Clay and His Party Supporters Seventy Years Ago.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Does THE SUN ever make a mistake? If so, does it ever correct a mistake?

I have been quietly watching for some such action, but apparently nobody has taken it. The statement made in THE SUN, page 8, of Sunday, May 13, that "Henry Clay of Kentucky, at Baltimore, by the Republican Party, was elected President of the National Convention of the Republican Party" is a mistake. At that date the Republican party had no existence, and it was twenty-five years later when its first National Convention was held, which nominated John C. Fremont, who was beaten by James Buchanan for President.

It was the Whig party which nominated Henry Clay for President, and it continued to nominate him until 1844, when he was finally beaten by James K. Polk. In 1840 the Whigs set aside Clay for Gen. Harrison and military glory. Harrison was elected, and Clay, as a result, was elected Governor of Ohio. But it wouldn't work in 1842 they nominated Gen. Scott, who was ignominiously beaten, carrying only four States, and his opponent, Franklin Pierce, was elected President.

This ended the Whig party. A. E. LEWIS. MIAMI, Pa., May 21.

Edward Stanwood's "History of the Presidency of the United States" is a book of the National Republicans, was held at Baltimore on December 12, 1831. . . . The nomination of Henry Clay was founded.

"The National Platforms of All Political Parties From 1798, Including the Conventions of 1802," edited by Thomas Hudson McKee, published by the Statistical Publishing Company of Washington, D. C., speaking of Henry Clay's nomination in 1831, says: "The Whig party was founded."

For the first time all Presidential candidates were nominated by national conventions, viz: Democratic convention, Baltimore, May 21, 1832, nominated for President Andrew Jackson of Tennessee, and for Vice President Martin Van Buren of New York; National Republican convention, Baltimore, Dec. 12, 1831, nominated for President Henry Clay of Kentucky and for Vice President John Sergeant of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Jefferson was known as the candidate of the Democratic-Republican party, and so was James Madison. Of the election of 1812, Mr. McKee remarks: "The Republicans were nominated for President James Madison of Virginia and for Vice President Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts." And as for 1816, he asserts that the Republicans nominated for President James Monroe of Virginia, while the Federalists supported Rufus King of New York.

Mr. Clay was first nominated in 1822 by the Kentucky Legislature, in an address to the people of the United States. When the Kentucky vote was counted in 1823 he was found to have run fourth, Jackson being first. As no candidate had a majority of the electoral vote, the House of Representatives chose the President, electing John Quincy Adams. Mr. Clay was not a candidate in 1828, nor in 1836. He was defeated for the nomination in the Whig convention of 1839, and was nominated in 1844, to be beaten by Polk.

ANGRY CHICAGO.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I have been in New York and have heard incidentally about the peculiarities of old New York. To day I am in receipt of a note from a young woman, born there, who told me when I saw her some months ago that she would be going west in May and would be glad for me to take her on my previous meeting. She says "I will be in Chicago on Sunday morning at 7 o'clock and will meet me there." That's all. No information as to what train, or what station, or what road, or anything. Do you suppose she thinks that Chicago is a prairie village with only one road and a "deep" if not, why not, my dear lady? CHICAGO, May 20.

AN OREGON TRAGEDY.

From the Joseph Herald.

Maud Laid, while on her way to Chico Friday, lost her life in a fire which broke out in her home. She was seven weeks and half dead Maggie Jones in the shade of the stately pine tree.

BACK TO NATURE.

Her cry was back to nature, Pursuing which we note, She ordered from her tailor Some toga in which to boat.